



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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### Huntley Meadows Park Recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

Earlier this month, volunteer and staff gathered at Huntley Meadows Park, a Fairfax County Park Authority site in Alexandria, for the annual Volunteer Recognition Party. This year Huntley's volunteers donated more than 5,000 hours of service.

Four individuals were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. They include: **Connie Carpender**, of Falls Church, has been an integral part of Huntley Meadows Park for many years. After 13 years of service as Huntley Meadows' administrative assistant, Connie retired and became a volunteer-on-duty. For three years Carpender has helped at the front desk greeting and orienting the public. She is a knowledgeable resource, patiently and competently answering a myriad of questions from park visitors.

Every Sunday afternoon **Curtis Gibbens**, of Centreville, is out in the park as a View from the Tower volunteer. Armed with a spotting scope and camera, he interacts with the public along the one-mile boardwalk trail. Gibbens enhances park visits by enabling visitors of all ages to get a close-up look at turtles, great blue herons and other wetland wildlife and helping the public learn about their observations. He routinely helps at the park's annual Wetlands Awareness Day and can be seen on the trails year-round and in all weather conditions.

**Dorothy Raduazo**, of Alexandria, who began volunteering in August 2005, has become an important member of the Huntley team. Every Thursday she works on the park's herbarium. This work includes documenting plant sightings, and preparing plant specimens by identifying, collecting and mounting them for preservation and reference. She also enters plant data; ensuring herbarium records are up to date. Raduazo, an eager and dedicated volunteer, received a Volunteer Fairfax Benchmark Award for volunteering over 250 hours this past year.

**Kathi McNeil**, of Alexandria, is the 2007 Ken Howard Volunteer of the Year Award recipient. McNeil, a talented and passionate individual, has been associated with the park since 1989, first as an employee now as a valued volunteer. For nine years she has volunteered as a program leader, presenting environmental programs to school-aged children. She also supports the Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring program and is a Friends of Huntley Meadows Park board member, currently serving her second term as president.

For information about Huntley Meadows Park or any of these volunteers contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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